

Double House
Pig Alley Block Study
702-704 Plum Street
Petersburg
Virginia

HABS
VA
27-PET,
23F-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

PIG ALLEY BLOCK STUDY:

702-704 PLUM STREET

HABS
VA
27-PET,
13F-

Location: 702-704 Plum Street, Petersburg, Virginia

Present Owner: Mrs. Hattie R. Brinkley, 1822 Westover Avenue,
Petersburg, Virginia

Present Occupant: Alonzo Epps & Family (702)
Elaine Campbell & Family (704)

Present Use: Two Private Residences

Statement of Significance: This building, probably constructed c. 1835, is a double worker's tenement in a village complex of workers houses. The complex was built for workers in the many flour and cotton mills which were located 500 feet north along the Appomattox River. This building is interesting since its form is a derivation of similar forms which were used in Colonial houses in Tidewater Virginia, and because it is built of brick; the others in the area are of frame construction.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1835.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: A chain of title for the building follows. Deed and Will Books are in the Clerk's Office of Hustings Court at Petersburg.

1845 ~~Deed~~ November 29, 1845 recorded in
Book 17 page 317
Paul D., tr. & others
Methodist Episcopal Church
to
George P. Ramspeck

1849 Deed November 3, 1849 recorded in
Book 18 page 76
George P. Ramspeck
Charlotte R. Ramspeck
to
Francis Y. Jones

1863 ~~Deed~~ February 12, 1863 recorded in
Book 27 page 319
Francis Y. Jones

- Julia A. Jones
to
Benjamin A. Davis
- 1863 Deed June 25, 1863 recorded in
Book 29 page 64
B. A. Davis
Henry Ella Davis
to
Louise L. Marks
- 1871 Deed March 13, 1871 recorded in
Book 33 page 414
Louise L. Marks
Bettie A. Marks
to
John D. Patram
- 1892 Deed September 24, 1892 recorded in
Book 55 page 368
Mary Danee & others,
heirs of John D. Patram
to
William H. Eanes
- 1893 Deed July 27, 1893 recorded in
Will Book 8 page 63
William Henderson Eanes
to
Mary Ellen Eanes
- 1913 Deed October 13, 1913 recorded in
Will Book 10 page 381
Mary E. Eanes
to
George W. Eanes
- 1924 Deed June 10, 1924 recorded in
Book 106 page 425
George W. Eanes
to
B. J. Crowder
- 1949 Deed June 1, 1949 recorded in
Book 169 page 400
B. J. Crowder
Erma C. Crowder
to
Henry W. Brinkley
- 1864 Deed June 18, 1964 recorded in
Will Book 30 page 705

Henry W. Brinkley
to
Victor W. Lavenstein (tr.)
Hattie R. Brinkley

4. Original plans and construction: Unknown.
5. Alterations and additions: Unknown.

Prepared by Randall J. Biallas
University of Illinois, Urbana
August 1968

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is an early 19th century brick house located in what is part of the original city and was probably a part of cluster housing for early industry in the area. The fact that the house is brick is peculiar to the area.
2. Condition of fabric: This house is in fair condition, both interior and exterior.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Rectangular, approximately 30' x 40' (overall) and divided into two units, each about 20' wide. One and a half stories, no basement.
2. Foundations: A brick foundation wall extends around the entire building. The first floor is 3' off the ground.
3. Wall construction: Red brick, common bond.
4. Chimneys: There is one brick chimney at the center, between the two units. It serves both sides and projects about 3' above roof ridge.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are two exterior doors for each unit--one in front and one in rear. They do not appear to be original.
 - b. Windows and shutters: There are two windows in front, one for each unit. They are double-hung, with 6 lights each sash. An interesting feature of the windows is

the wooden pegs at the sill in each, used for frame jointage--dating the window frame very early, and probably original. On each side there are three windows, two at the first floor and one at the attic. Some broken shutter latches still remain.

6. Porches: The front porch is split into two separate parts with one roof covering both parts, thus essentially giving a separate porch to each unit. Two wood piers (each side) support the porch roof. The porch floor (which is 3' off ground) is supported by concrete and brick piers. At the rear, two screened-in porches have been added (one to each unit).
7. Structural system: Inaccessible due to wall and ceiling finish in attic.
8. Roof shape and covering: There is a gabled roof with tin covering, ribs are 18" to 24" o.c., varying. A lean-to roof covers the rear porch. Front porch roof slopes slightly.
9. Dormers: There are two dormers, both in front, one to each unit. Windows in each are double-hung with 6 lights each sash. Tin covering on sides and roof of each.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans, general: The building is divided into two units, symmetrically, about central fireplace. Description is for one unit (left, facing building).
2. Floor plans, specific: First floor, entry to left of center basically two rooms back to back with a connecting doorway. Porch at rear with connecting doorway. An interesting feature on the first floor is the fireplace in the corner of each room (back to back), forming a diagonal with the two interior walls which would normally butt at right angles. The attic is one room and the fireplace is also in the corner.
3. Stairways: An enclosed stairway to the attic is located along exterior wall, no landing. Stair entry is from rear room.
4. Flooring: Wood plank flooring.
5. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster, both floors, fair condition. Screen porch has concrete block walls.
6. Doorways and doors: There is a door connecting first floor rooms and one at the head of stairs in attic. None appear to be original.

7. Notable hardware: None.
8. Lighting: Modern.
9. Heating: Oil burning stoves, vented through chimney flue.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building is oriented north on Plum Street and set back about 12' from road. Clustered around are other row houses of the period. No outbuildings.
2. Landscaping: There is sparse ground cover. There are trees in rear and on right side. Wood and wire fence encloses the diagonal shaped lot on two sides.

Prepared by John M. McRae
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
July 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation made during the 1968 Petersburg Summer Project, undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with The Historic Petersburg Foundation, Inc., with financial assistance from The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. During the summer, records were made of twenty-two buildings in the city.

The project was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was John M. McRae of the University of Florida. The recording team was composed of Randall J. Biallas, historian (University of Illinois, Urbana), and student assistant architects Michael Hamilton (University of Arizona), Thomas J. Sanford (Washington State University), and Edwin S. Smith, Jr. (Rhode Island School of Design). Photographs were made by George Eisenman.